

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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TAGS: SOPN, US, PINT, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT STEPHEN S. ROSENFELD OP-ED COLUMN, WASHINGTON POST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, HEADED "GUESS WHO'S COMING TO LUNCH?"

2. A CATCHY LITTLE THROWAWAY ITEM APPEARED ON PAGE A30 OF THE POST THE OTHER MORNING. IT REPORTED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAD INVITED DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN ROBERT STRAUSS TO LUNCH TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR A "CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE" ON FOREIGN POLICY IN THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

3. IN THIS CYNICAL TOWN, A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO READ THAT ITEM PROBABLY JUMPED TO THE CONCLUSION--BASELESS, OF COURSE-- THAT KISSINGER WAS SIMPLY TRYING TO LAY ON THE BIPARTISANSHIP LINE AND TO SWEET-TALK STRAUSS INTO USING HIS INFLUENCE TO LIMIT DEMOCRATIC CRITICISM OF REPUBLICAN FOREIGN POLICY.

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4. BUT I PREFER TO THINK THAT KISSINGER, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO NARROW DEBATE, WAS REALLY INTENDING TO BROADEN IT, AND THAT IN THAT SPIRIT HE HAS ALREADY DRAWN UP A LIST OF OTHER LUNCHEON PARTNERS TO SERVE THAT SAME END.

5. FIRST ON THE LIST MUST BE PRESIDENT FORD, WHO BY VIRTUE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HIS ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC, IS IN A POSITION TO DO MORE THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN TO MAKE ELECTION-YEAR FOREIGN-POLICY DEBATE CONSTRUCTIVE.

6. ONE WOULD HAVE TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT MR. FORD BLEW THE OPPORTUNITY HE HAD THIS WEEK, IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE. CAUGHT BETWEEN A DESIRE TO PRESENT HIS OWN ADMINISTRATION AS SUCCESSFUL IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND A COUNTERVAILING DESIRE TO CONVEY ENOUGH OF A SENSE OF INTERNATIONAL MENACE TO MUSTER SUPPORT FOR HIS DEFENSE BUDGET, HIS PLANS FOR THE CIA AND HIS ANGOLA POLICY, HE SIMPLY CRANKED OUT SOME ROUTINE ARGUMENTATION AND PASSED PARTISANLY ON.

7. NO ONE DOUBTS MR. FORD IS PURSUING THE POLICY HE BELIEVES IS BEST FOR THE COUNTRY. BUT AS LONG AS HE DISMISSES AMERICANS' CONCERNED CRITICISM AS "DOWNGRADING OURSELVES AS A NATION"; AS LONG AS HE CASUALLY SLIPS IN A PLUG FOR "OUR FRIENDS, SUCH AS IN ANGOLA" AS THOUGH NO WATER HAD FLOWED OVER THAT DAM--FOR SO LONG WILL HE BE SETTING EXACTLY THE WRONG EXAMPLE OF FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE.

8. NEXT I WOULD HAVE KISSINGER INVITE STRAUSS' REPUBLICAN COUNTERPART, MARY LOUISE SMITH, AND THE LIKES OF HOWARD CALLAWAY FROM THE FORD RE-ELECTION COMMITTEE. THE LAST TIME I PLUGGED INTO ANYTHING THAT CALLAWAY, IN PARTICULAR, WAS CONTRIBUTING TO ENLIGHTENED DIALOGUE, HE WAS ADVISING MR. FORD TO OPPOSE HIS OWN PROPOSAL TO NEGOTIATE A FAIR NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA ABOUT THE CANAL.

9. SINCE SMITH, CALLAWAY AND COMPANY ARE MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OWN PARTY, IT SHOULD BE RELATIVELY EASY FOR KISSINGER TO PIPE THEM ABOARD THE SHIP OF STATESMANSHIP.
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HE WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO RETURN TO ROBERT STRAUSS, PRESENTING HIM, THIS TIME, NOT WITH A REQUEST TO YIELD UP POLITICAL ADVANTAGE AND THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP BUT TO MATCH THE EXAMPLE OF HIGHMINDEDNESS SET BY THE REPUBLICANS. HOW COULD STRAUSS SAY NO?

10. THEN THE SECRETARY MIGHT ASK IN FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER AND DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDI-

DATE HENRY JACKSON. THEY REPRESENT WHAT IS INTELLECTUALLY AND POLITICALLY THE MOST SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THE FOREIGN POLICY CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION.

11. KISSINGER COULD EXPLORE WITH THESE MEN, WHO ARE EVERY

BIT AS MINDFUL AS HE OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST, WHAT CORE OF POLICY HE AND THEY COULD SHARE IN THE COMING YEAR ON THE BIG ISSUES OF SALT, DEFENSE POSTURE AND THE MIDEAST. THERE WOULD BE SOME HORSE-TRADING, SOME CO-OPTION, SOME AGREEING TO DISAGREE. KISSINGER MIGHT SET OUT A CHAIR AT THE SAME LUNCH FOR FRANK CHURCH IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT HAS TO BE DONE TO AVOID GETTING HUNG UP ON THE LIBERALS' SHOALS.

12. AT YET ANOTHER LUNCH KISSINGER COULD SIT DOWN WITH RICHARD BARNET OF THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES AND ROBERT TUCKER OF JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. THEY ARE AS INTELLIGENT AND FAIR-MINDED INTELLECTUALS (OF THE LEFT AND RIGHT, RESPECTIVELY) AS THERE ARE AROUND, AND THEY HAVE BOTH MADE SIGNIFICANT ELONGATIONS OF THE SPECTRUM OF OPINION IN WHICH FOREIGN POLICY OPTIONS ARE COMMONLY DISCUSSED.

13. NEITHER BARNET'S NOR TUCKER'S VIEWPOINT IS A LIKELY CANDIDATE TO CAPTURE A POLITICAL MAJORITY. KISSINGER, HOWEVER, IF HE REALLY WANTS DEBATE TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE, OUGHT TO BE IMPARTING THE BLESSING OF HIS LUNCHEON TABLE TO THE RIGOROUS REVIEW OF POLICY BY PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL COMMUNITY.

14. AN INSUFFICIENCY OF INTELLECTUAL CONSULTATION, NO LESS THAN AN INSUFFICIENCY OF POLITICAL CONSULTATION, IS WHAT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE TIGHTNESS OF THE BIND WHICH KISSINGER
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CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE IN NOW.

15. FINALLY, THE SECRETARY COULD LUNCH ALONE. FOR HE IS NO SMALL PART OF THE PROBLEM OF POLICY CONSTRICTION WHICH ENGAGES HIM AND THE REST OF US, TOO. HE DESERVES, MOREOVER, AT LEAST ONE LUNCH WHEN NO ONE IS TRYING TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO. (END TEXT) SISCO

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